

Food and Beverage Basket Ideas
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Food and Beverage Basket Ideas

Tea Time

Curate an assortment of bagged and loose leaf teas in a variety of flavors, such as black, green, white, and herbal. Include accessories as well, such as a teapot or kettle, tea steeper, honey, and a tea towel.

Coffee Lovers

For every tea drinker in your supporter base, you probably have a coffee connoisseur as well. Put together a variety of whole and ground coffee beans in different roasts and flavors, along with mugs and sweet treats.

Chocolate Celebration

Chocolate comes in so many varieties that it's easy to fill a basket with gourmet chocolates, hot cocoa supplies, and chocolate-covered snacks like fruit, nuts, pretzels, and espresso beans. To add an activity to the basket, consider including a chocolate fondue set or tickets to a chocolate-tasting event.

Wine and Cheese

This classic pairing makes for an indulgent basket. Include bottles of quality red and white wine, an assortment of cheeses, crackers, and other charcuterie-board supplies. You could even increase the basket's value by including a vineyard tour with the package.

Craft Beer Sampler

Like with tea and coffee, for every one of your supporters who prefers a nice glass of wine, you probably have one who enjoys a good beer. Curate an assortment of bottled craft beer and hard cider—from local breweries if possible—and add in some salty snacks to go with the drinks.

Home Chef Starter Kit

Appeal to the amateur chef or cooking show enthusiast in your supporter base with a basket containing small kitchen appliances (like a hand mixer or mini food processor), utensils, spices, and cooking oils. To add value to the basket, include a gift card to a high-end kitchenware retailer or a certificate for a cooking class.

Kids' Baking Party

Families often enjoy spending time together in the kitchen, so create a kid-friendly version of your home chef basket to appeal to supporters with young children or grandchildren. Include brownie mix, premade cookie dough, cookie cutters, shaped baking pans, frosting, sprinkles, and child-size aprons.

While some supporters come to silent auctions in search of permanent physical items, many would rather look for experiences or consumables that won't clutter up their homes. Baskets themed around food and beverages are perfect for this second audience.

Home and Garden Basket Ideas

New Baby Essentials

Chances are, someone in your supporter base either knows a new parent or is expecting a baby. To engage this segment of your audience, pack a basket full of blankets, wet wipes, pacifiers, bibs, picture books, baby-safe toys, and a baby monitor. If you include clothing, remember that babies outgrow clothes quickly, so opt for 3-month or 6-month sizes rather than newborn clothes.

Garden in a Box

For the plant lovers who attend your auction, include gardening gloves, pots, seeds, succulents, a spade, and other tools in one basket. You could also throw in a gift card to a garden center to add value to the basket.

Gift-Giving Workshop

This workstation is perfect for supporters who love giving the perfect gift. Fill this basket with rolls of wrapping paper in different patterns and textures, ribbon, gift bags, gift tags, tissue paper, colorful tape, and supplies to make homemade cards for an extra personal touch.

Make Your Own Candles. Put together a candle-making kit for supporters who enjoy crafts. Include wax, a wax warmer or pouring pot, mason jars, wicks, color chips, an instruction book, matches or lighters, and a set of essential oils for fragrance.

Electronic Gadgets

Tech-savvy and younger auction participants will love being able to bid on a package of top-of-the-line devices. Center the basket around one large item like a new smartphone, laptop, or tablet; then add smaller accessories like a smartwatch or fitness tracker, Bluetooth speaker, headphones, and an extra-long charging cord.

Pet Paradise

Create two versions of this basket: one for dog owners and one for cat owners. Gather a wide selection of toys, treats, essential supplies, and certificates for pet-sitting or grooming services, all geared specifically toward each type of pet. For instance, you might include a leash and tennis balls in the dog basket, and a scratching post and catnip in the cat basket.

Depending on the time of year, you could also create home and garden baskets with seasonal themes, such as a pumpkin-carving kit or supplies for a summer cookout. Consider which holidays or events are a month or two out from your auction so supporters can consider how the basket would fit into their upcoming plans.

Local Businesses Basket Ideas

Aspiring Artist Supplies

Partner with an art supply retailer to secure canvases, paintbrushes, paints, sketchbooks, colored pencils, pottery-making tools, and other high-quality artist's essentials. If they offer art classes or paint-and-sip party packages, include a gift certificate to encourage the winner to visit the store.

Auto Enthusiast

Ask an auto body shop or mechanic to donate car care supplies like glass windshield wipes, microfiber towels, spot sprays, car wax, and air fresheners. Increase the basket's value by putting in a certificate for a service the partner provides, like oil changes, detailing, or new tires.

Family Photo Session. Have a professional photographer in your area donate their services as the focal point of a basket, then include accessories like photo albums, picture frames, and a waterproof or polaroid camera.

DIY Home Improvement

If you have a locally owned hardware store in your area, ask them to donate a tool kit, nails, screws, wood varnish, and instructions for DIY building projects. You could also partner with a contractor, interior designer, or electrician to add a gift certificate for a home improvement project that goes beyond DIY abilities to the basket.

Rec and Leisure Basket Ideas

Date Night

Arguably the most commonly used basket in silent auctions, you can easily put together a gift card to a fancy restaurant, tickets to a movie or live show, and transportation vouchers for your date night bundle. To enhance the display, include a bottle of champagne or sparkling wine, chocolates, and flowers in the basket.

Spa Day

Help your supporters unwind after a long day or week with facial masks, bath bombs, fluffy slippers, candles, scented lotions, at-home pedicure supplies, and a gift certificate for a massage.

Makeup Essentials

High-quality makeup can be expensive if you buy it one product at a time, so supporters who enjoy it will likely want to stock up on many supplies at once. Include a variety of lipsticks, eye shadow palettes, eyeliners, mascara, and makeup brushes, plus a gift card to a beauty supply store so the winning bidder can choose the face makeup products that work best for them.

Game Night

Bring families or friend groups together for a night of fun with a basket of board games, cards, puzzles, and snack foods. Alternatively, if you can procure a popular video game system, make it the centerpiece of a basket that includes controllers, headphones, and a variety of games.

Movie Night

In a similar vein to the game night basket, combine popcorn, boxed candy, cozy blankets, a 6-month subscription to any popular streaming service, and a gift card to a local movie theater in your movie night bundle.

Camping Starter Kit

For your more adventurous auction participants, use a tent or cooler as a basket and fill it with a sleeping bag, solar flashlight, tabletop charcoal grill, and s'mores supplies. If you want to include weatherproof clothing or shoes in the package, put in vouchers or gift certificates so winners can visit a sporting goods store to find their size.

All-Access City Pass

To highlight attractions in or around your city, create a bundle of tickets for two or four people each to different museums, zoos, nature centers, sporting events, or theme parks. Include a guidebook and some city-specific merchandise like t-shirts or refrigerator magnets in the basket to enhance the visual display.

Fitness Fans

Appeal to your more active supporters with a basket containing hand weights, gym towels, a yoga mat, a reusable water bottle, and Bluetooth earbuds that will stay in place during a workout. Add a gift card for a popular activewear brand or an exercise class pass at a local gym to increase the basket's value.

Music Enthusiasts

Try creating several baskets based on this theme for different genres of music, such as country, pop, or classic rock. In each basket, include a gift card for a music streaming service, Bluetooth headphones, a record player with a popular vinyl record that matches the genre, relevant artists' merchandise, and maybe even tickets to an upcoming concert.

Consider surveying your supporters ahead of time to see which leisure activities appeal most to them, and do some research into what events are coming up in your city. This way, you can be confident that you're curating baskets your supporters will enjoy bidding on.

Travel-related Basket Ideas

Air Travel Essentials

Both first-time travelers and frequent flyers looking to replace their supplies will enjoy a basket containing a neck pillow, earbuds, small paperback books, a portable phone charger, TSA-approved containers for travel toiletries, and an airline gift certificate. To add both value and visual appeal, consider packaging this basket in a carry-on suitcase.

New York Minute

Give auction participants a taste of the Big Apple with items unique to New York City. Include gift certificates for authentic NY style pizza and cheesecake, art prints of the skyline, Yankees memorabilia, Statue of Liberty figurines, subway maps, and tickets to see a touring production of a Broadway show. If you wanted to expand on this idea, you could create more baskets themed around other U.S. cities that are popular with tourists, like Chicago, Las Vegas, or Los Angeles.

An American in Paris

Transport bidders to the City of Lights with a Parisian-themed basket containing French beauty brands, cheese, croissants, macarons, vintage journals, Eiffel Tower decor, and a gift card to a French restaurant or bakery. You could also adapt this idea to spotlight any popular international city, like London, Rome, or Tokyo.

Beach Day

Especially if your organization is located within a few hours' drive of a beach, supporters will get a lot of use out of a basket filled with beach towels, good-quality sunscreen, a beach ball, sand toys, a boogie board or skimboard, and tropical beverages. If you're closer to a lake or a mountain range, adapt the contents of your basket to items that could be used for those getaways.

Road Trip

Bundle together gas station gift cards, reusable water bottles, travel snacks, sunglasses, car games, and car phone chargers to supplement your supporters' next road trip. A trunk organizer or cooler that fits well in the backseat of a car would make a perfect container for this basket.